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IN THE UNITED STATES ELECTED OFFICE (EO/US)

International Application No.: PCT/JP99/02667
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Title: BALL FOR BALL GAME
Attorney's Docket No.: ADI-072 (257/38)
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Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D. C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend claims 1, 6-8, and 10, without prejudice, as follows.

1. (Amended) A ball for a ball game comprising:

an elastic bladder having the form of a spherical hollow body into which compressed air is charged;[,]

a reinforced layer formed on a whole surface of the bladder;[,] and

a plurality of leather panels bonded onto the reinforced layer (directly or through a cover rubber layer,) wherein a peripheral edge portion of the leather panel is folded toward an inside and a thickness adjusting member bonded onto the back of the leather panel surrounded by the folded portion of the leather panel.

6. (Amended) The ball for ball game of claim 1, [2, 3, 4 and 5,] wherein the thickness adjusting member is made of a woven fabric.

7. (Amended) The ball for ball game of claim 1, [2, 3, 4 and 5,] wherein the thickness adjusting member is made of a shock absorbing member.

8. (Amended) The ball for ball game of claim 1, [2, 3, 4 and 5,] wherein the thickness adjusting member has a lamination structure of the woven fabric and the shock absorbing member.

10. (Amended) The ball for ball game of claim 1, [2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9,] wherein the reinforcing member is provided between the leather panel and the thickness adjusting member.